

LIFE SKILLS FOR LITTLE ONES

– STARTING SCHOOL OR NURSERY.



Is your child starting school or nursery this September?

In Hertfordshire libraries you can find lots of picture books that can prepare your little ones for this big change and will help dispel any worries or fears they may have. Here is a selection of some of our favourites.

You can request books free of charge with a child's library membership card. Click on the book cover pictures to link to the Hertfordshire library catalogue or visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

To celebrate this special milestone, library staff are looking forward to presenting children with a 'My First Day at School' certificate. If your child is starting nursery or reception class then do visit any Hertfordshire Library so they can receive one.

If your child is not already a library member, then now is the perfect time for them to join. With their 'My First' library card, children can choose from thousands of picture books to share with you. They can also discover our 'Beginning to read' books – perfect for building confidence and helping to make learning to read a fun adventure.



Title	Author		Brief Annotation
Let's get ready for school	Jane Porter		Starting school can be a great adventure, but it can make you feel a bit nervous too. This reassuring book for young children that explores everything they'll need to know before starting school.
Topsy and Tim Start School	Jean Adamson and Gareth Adamson		Favourite characters Topsy and Tim are starting school. Join them to find out what to expect in lessons, in the playground - even in the canteen - and, more importantly, that school can be fun!
George's First Day at Playgroup	Neville Astley and Mark Baker		It is George's first day at playgroup, and Peppa doesn't really want him there. But when all of her friends want a little brother too, will Peppa change her mind?
Come to School Too, Blue Kangaroo	Emma Chichester Clark		Lily thinks Blue Kangaroo might be nervous about starting school – but in fact he can't wait to have fun and make some new friends.



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Maisy Goes to Nursery	Lucy Cousins		Maisy loves going to nursery. There's so much fun to be had, with all her friends and their teacher - singing at music time, a nap at quiet time, listening at book time and then play time in the garden. What a day.
Little Owl's First Day	Debi Gliori and Alison Brown		It's a big day for little Owl, his first day at school. He would rather stay at home, however at school he gets to build a rocket learn to fly and even make a new friend.
A New Friend	Lucy Menzies		It's Joe's first day at a new school. He misses his school, his old friends and his old life. When Mae hears that there's a new kid starting school, she can't wait to meet him. Is this her chance to make a true friend?
Thunder boots	Naomi Jones and Rebecca Ashdown		When it's time for Trixie to start school, she is very excited. Sometimes it's hard to concentrate in class, though. And it's really hard to read letters. Maybe what Trixie needs is a superpowered plan. An empowering story about starting school with dyslexia that celebrates everyone's differences.
The pigeon HAS to go to school	Mo Willems		Why does the Pigeon have to go to school? He already knows everything! Well, almost everything. And what if he doesn't like it? What if the teacher doesn't like him? I mean, what if he learns too much!?! A funny story to share with children and to help start those conversations about starting school.
First Day at Bug School	Sam Lloyd		At the bottom of the garden where no one really sees, a secret school is hidden amongst the grass and weeds. Welcome to the bug school. A bright and rhythmic picture book sure to allay first-day-at-school fears.



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Starting school	Janet and Allan Ahlberg		From first day nerves to finding your peg, this reassuring read is full of humour and fun for children and parents alike. A classic picture book which offers advice and enjoyment for the whole family before school starts.
Lulu's first day	Anna McQuinn		Lulu is excited to start Pre-School. It will be like storytime at the library, but she will stay by herself. There's so much to do at Pre-School and in no time at all, Mummy is back to collect her.
Mouse's big day	Lynda Monks		Welcome to Twit Twoo School! Meet Mouse, Mole, Owl, Frog, Rabbit and their teacher Miss Hoot at their fun-filled treetop school. It's Mouse's first day, and she's feeling a little nervous - in fact, she doesn't want to go to school at all! But with help from her new friends, she finds that perhaps school isn't so bad after all.
My School Unicorn	Willow Evans and Tom Knight		Starting school is an adventure - especially when you have a magical unicorn friend by your side! Evie soon learns that starting school is LOTS of fun!
Never take a bear to school	Mark Sperring and Britta Teckentrup		Bears are clumsy. They don't sit still. They're much, much bigger than teachers - and they eat SUCH a lot of lunch! Yes, taking a bear to school is a BAD idea. But will this little boy find the courage to face the first day of school alone?
All the Words you Need to Know Before you Start School	Felicity Brooks		Help pre-schoolers build the vocabulary they will need to communicate effectively, make friends, and learn to read and write when they start school.



Title	Author		Brief Annotation
Starting School	Eleanor Taylor		Peter Rabbit has a new bag, new pencil and is ready for his first lesson! In this perfect book for little ones starting at school or nursery, Peter is excited to start forest school with Benjamin Bunny.
Prince George Goes to School	Caryl Hart		Prince George is starting school! There will be new faces, new friends, lots of new things to learn - as well as new challenges, like taking turns! How will the young royal enjoy his latest epic adventure?
Welcome to Dinosaur School	Rose Cobden		Jewel the dinosaur is very nervous about her first day of school. The dining hall is very noisy and her new classroom is so big! But as the day goes on, and Jewel settles into her new class and makes new friends, she realises that school isn't that scary after all.
Pearl goes to Pre-School	Julie Fortenberry		Pearl loves attending dance classes at her mother's ballet school. When her mum suggests preschool, Pearl has a lot of questions: what will she learn? Will there be dancing? This sweet and reassuring story is perfect for young children with separation anxiety.
When a dragon goes to school	Carol Hart		When a dragon goes to school, will she enjoy a book in the reading den and save her lunchtime treats for a friend? Or will she throw the crayons and refuse to share? She's going to need her friends to help her behave herself - she is DRAGON after all.
The Starting School Book	Sarah Ockwell-Smith		This book gives guidance to parents on a range of topics including what to consider when selecting a school for your child and how to prepare your child emotionally and practically for starting school.

For further information and to join the library visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries